



THE AVON PARK BOMBING RANGE  
AVON PARK, FLORIDA

Sunday night  
Jan. 3, 1943

Dear Keeds,-

Well, - here I am - back on the job again.  
but this time in Florida! - Never can tell - maybe  
even Bolling some day (I can dream can't I?).

I'm sorry as can be I couldn't get to stop by  
and see you all in Lynchburg. You just can't begin  
to understand the traveling problem there is today  
until you actually try to take a trip yourself. - I  
was lucky enough to get passage on the Silver  
Meteor thru Joe's efforts. - He got me reservations  
thru some friend (as usual) - and I couldn't have  
possibly have gotten on it myself. - As it was - the  
train was over this late getting here - so I just  
managed to beat the deadline by about 3 hrs.  
Some friends of mine who left New York on ~~Wednesday~~<sup>after</sup>  
just beat me in town by about one hr. and I didn't  
leave D.C. until 7 o'clock Thursday night. - You've no  
idea - even freight trains have the right of way over  
crack ~~too~~ passenger trains these days. - Blame it on  
the gas shortage or something - cause you know I'd have  
come by if I possibly could.

Don't know just what we will do here. - We are  
to check out on Martin B-26 Bombers. - after we get

the hang of 'em - we will get our crew and practice  
with them for awhile. - Then - you guess - go raise some  
hell of our own! -

The planes are swell to all appearances - but very  
wicked. - They have no wing to speak of, so consequently,  
with the load they carry - they have an extremely high  
landing speed. - Believe it or not - they are the hottest  
ships the Army has and lots of pursuit ships can't  
even begin to catch 'em!

Our field here is brand new - a matter of weeks -  
so naturally the living conditions are very primitive.  
At present I feel like the very devil - just plain worn out.  
I think it's due to not having <sup>had</sup> any exercise in such a  
long time, combined with our water change. The water here  
is full of sulfur and as usual the Army has loaded it  
with chlorine. - The combination is wicked - take it from  
me! - It's only 8:30 and I'm more than ready for bed,  
so you know!

Lots of our fellows are getting sent out pretty soon  
as co-pilots. They are being used to complete crews  
that are almost ready to go out. I'm just hoping I'm  
lucky enough to get to stay and be checked out as a  
"first pilot instead. - Keep your fingers crossed for  
me.

By the way - I've run into most of my old outfit I  
was with in Camp Davis. You can't ever tell who you  
will run into where! -

Gotta go now - I'm just too tired. Write when you  
can - and often. - Bye & love

Frank.

P.S. - New address -

478 Bomb. Sqdn., 336 Bomb. Gp.  
Avon Park, Fla.